3: Anonymous U-4 (no date) 1920 RH1 Caucasia RH1

prices. Special varieties of conifers, birch, oak, and palm grow in the Caucasus. The Caucasus palm or *samshita* is not plentiful, but is greatly valued. The commonest tree is the beech, which occupies 25 per cent. of the total forest area; the oak occupies 16·7 per cent. and the pine 8·1 per cent. Plantations of bamboo at Chavka and Sukhum have been very successful, the cane being used for industrial purposes.

The Italian firm of Sbrajavacca was in 1914 exploiting the pine-forests of Svanetia and Ratce, the timber being floated down the river Rion. The firm has saw-mills at Socilava and Poti.

The Russian State levied on all timber a royalty varying according to the kind of wood, &c. The State also fixed the amount of timber to be felled in each area, which was then sold to the highest bidder. The total amount of timber which might be cut in the Caucasus was fixed in 1913 at nearly 220,000,000 cubic feet, of which only a little more than a quarter was actually delivered.

(*d*) *Land Tenure*

The Caucasus as a whole has no fixed system of land tenure, nor are any of the characteristic Russian features of land-holding found there. The various kinds of landowner may be divided into six classes: the old nobility of Georgia; Tatar and Armenian peasant holders; nomad pastoral tribes, who occupy large areas of steppe land, especially in Stavropol Province; Russian settlers, placed on land vacated after the conquest; the Russian State, which owned large areas, mainly forest; and the Imperial family, which had acquired valuable appanages in the Caucasus.

No figures are available to show the proportions in which the land is held by these various owners; and, as a large part of the total productive area is occupied by nomads, no exact statistics would be possible. Moreover, recent events have to a great extent obliterated the old divisions, and new claims to ownership of much valuable land will have to be settled in the course of time.

5: Allen H-4 (no date) 1923 RH1 Caucasia RH1

growth, that the greatest wealth of timber is to be found. It 137
is estimated that nearly 7,000,000 acres, or 38 per cent. of the total extent of the Georgian Republic, are covered with trees. "According to the climate and configuration of the soil the predominant species of tree vary in the different forest districts. In the subtropical zone of the Black Sea shore we find a luxuriant vegetation of leaf-trees and bushes from orange, lemon, pear, peach and apple-trees to beeches, walnut and box-trees. In the Sukhum district the abundance of chestnut-trees is particularly remarkable. From the shore eastward into the Provinces of Kutais and Tiflis beeches and hornbeams form the characteristic outline of the landscape up to an altitude of about 4,000 feet above sea-level, after which they gradually become interspersed, until entirely replaced by coniferous species. Oaks are found chiefly above the 5,500 feet level and form rich forests in Kakhethi; elms, chestnut and lime-trees grow well everywhere up to about 5,000 feet. While the soft-wood, aspen, elder and ash-trees are mostly confined to the moderate altitudes, the birch is found up to the limit of tree-vegetation, i.e. about 8,000 feet.

"The coniferous trees of the Georgian forests, as elsewhere, generally occupy the upper parts of the mountains, beginning above 4,000 feet. They consist of a number of high-stemmed species, several being peculiar to the Caucasus. The most abundant of them are the red and silver firs, pine, larch, yew and maple, the latter growing to enormous heights, particularly in Kakhethi. . . . Firs and Caucasian yew-trees form enormous forests in the districts of Gori and Akhaltsikh. In the lowlands of Eastern Georgia, as in the Shiraki Plain or Lower Kakhethi, the vegetation changes entirely; the high-stemmed trees disappear, and prickly juniper-trees and pistachio-bushes form the chief characteristic of the landscape."[1]

Less than half the area of Transcaucasian forests is sus- 313
ceptible of exploitation, the remaining acreage being at present inaccessible for practical purposes. Until the Revolution the forests were in part the property of the Russian State, in part of the Imperial Family and other landowners. The forests were exploited to a certain extent for local needs. The Italian firm of Sbrajavacca had a concession to cut the forests of Svanetia and Radsha, and floated timber down the Rion to saw-mills on the Black Sea Coast. Export had, however, declined before the war, owing to unfavourable prices.

After the Revolution the forests were declared to be the

[1] *Russo-British Chamber of Commerce Journal*, May 1920.

5: Allen H-4 (no date) 1923 RH1 Caucasia RH1

313 property of the Georgian Government, who have recently exploited the timber of the Kutais and Poti districts for the manufacture of railway sleepers.

433 *Vegetable and Animal Products.*—The Caucasus is essentially an agricultural and pastoral country, and it is estimated that from 75 per cent. to 80 per cent. of the population are engaged in animal and vegetable production. In the mountain-regions, Kabarda, Chechnia, Svanetia, Ossetia, Daghestan and Kara Bagh, the people are virtually self-supporting as regards cereals, but produce little for export. Their surplus production is mainly in animals. In Kabarda and in the Jevad and Gökcha districts of Azerbaijan fine horses are bred, and, in the Mughan, camels. The production of wool, sold for the most part to carpet-weavers, is the main source of living to the mountain and nomad tribes, and in the Borchalu district (south of Tiflis) the Tatars make excellent cheese which is exported to Russia as "Gruyère." The production of wax and honey further forms a secondary occupation of many of the villagers, both of the hills and the plain. In Daghestan and in the Kur Delta there are thriving fisheries. The catch of "puzanka," a small species of herring, off the coast of Daghestan and the mouth of the Terek, averages 40,000 tons a year; while along the Kur the catch of sturgeon gives an annual production of over 300 tons of caviare. Large herds of swine flourish in many parts of Transcaucasia, particularly in the lowlands of Mingrelia and Guria.

433 The chief cereals grown in Transcaucasia are: wheat, which covers approximately 475,000 acres in the Government of 241 Baku, 670,000 acres in the Government of Elisavetpol and 680,000 acres in the Government of Tiflis; maize, which occupies about 470,000 acres in the Government of Kutais, and 180,000 acres in the Government of Sukhum; and rye, which covers about 133,000 acres over Transcaucasia, more than half being grown in the Government of Elisavetpol. Hay occupies about 500,000 acres in the Black Sea and Elisavetpol districts. Rice is grown chiefly in Azerbaijan and Talish, and cotton covers about 200,000 acres over different parts of the country. Cotton has recently tended to supersede rice, especially in the eastern regions, Baku, Elisavetpol and Erivan, where, in 1913, it already covered about 200,000 acres. It is possible that a considerable crop of cotton may in the near future be cultivated in the Mughan Steppe, the irrigation of which the Russian Government had successfully undertaken before the outbreak of war.

Forestry

311 137 313 The subtropical, deciduous (oak, beech, hornbeam) or coniferous (pine, juniper) forests constitute one of the many assets of the Caucasus. The Georgian Republic and the southern sections of the Krasnodar Kray are especially rich in forests. One finds many forests in North Armenia, in West Azerbaijan on the slopes of the Lesser Caucasus, and on the Lenkoran' Lowland, which last is famous for its subtropical forests. On the northern slopes of the Greater Caucasus, in the Stavropol' Kray, in the Groznyy Oblast, and in Dagestan the forests are less dense. Here the forest area is chiefly in the mountainous parts of the various administrative units like the North Ossetian ASSR, the Groznyy Oblast, and the Dagestan ASSR. The numerous lumbering, sawmilling, woodworking and furniture plants of this area indicate an extensive exploitation rather than great forest resources. Further to the north, north of the Kuban-Terek line, forests are virtually non-existent and the lumbering industry of Astrakhan', Rostov, etc. is based on imported timber floated or transported down the Volga and Don Rivers.

311 137 Area by area, the distribution of trees is as follows:

Azerbaijan SSR: Oak prevails in the sparse forests of the Lesser Caucasus and on the lower slopes of the Greater Caucasus,

288 industry is concentrated in the North Caucasus, chiefly at Astrakhan'.

Textile and clothing mills: The most important textile mills are at Baku (Azerbaijan), Leninakan (Armenia), Kutaisi (Georgia), Derbent (Dagestan), Budennovsk (Stavropol' Kray). Clothing mills are concentrated in Georgia
295 (Tbilisi, Batumi), in Armenia (Leninakan), and in the capitals of the Cherkess, Kabardian, and North Ossetian republics.

286 Rug-weaving centers: Rug-weaving is one of the traditional industries of the eastern South Caucasus. Originally it was a home industry of nomadic (mostly Turkic) peoples. The Caucasian rug-weaving industry produces three kinds of rugs: The Daghestani Rug, made in Dagestan and North Azerbaijan; the Shirvan Rug, made in East Azerbaijan; and the Karabagh Rug, made in Armenia and West Azerbaijan.

295 Alunite mines; leather, boot and shoe
282 factories: The most important leather factories are at Baku, Nakhichevan', Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Groznyy, and Stavropol'. Tbilisi, Cherkessk, Rostov, and Taganrog have boot and shoe fac-
317 tories. Alunite, the raw material important for tanning, is mined at Zaglik in Azerbaijan.

•313 Lumbering, sawmilling, woodworking
322 plants: Concentrated in Georgia, in the most heavily forested area of the Caucasus. The other areas of concentration are Northern Armenia, and a whole series of cities, towns, and villages, located along the northern slopes of the Greater Caucasus. Important lumbering centers are also Astrakhan' and Rostov, processing imported lumber.

7: Columbia U. S-4, 5 1956 RHl Caucasia RHl

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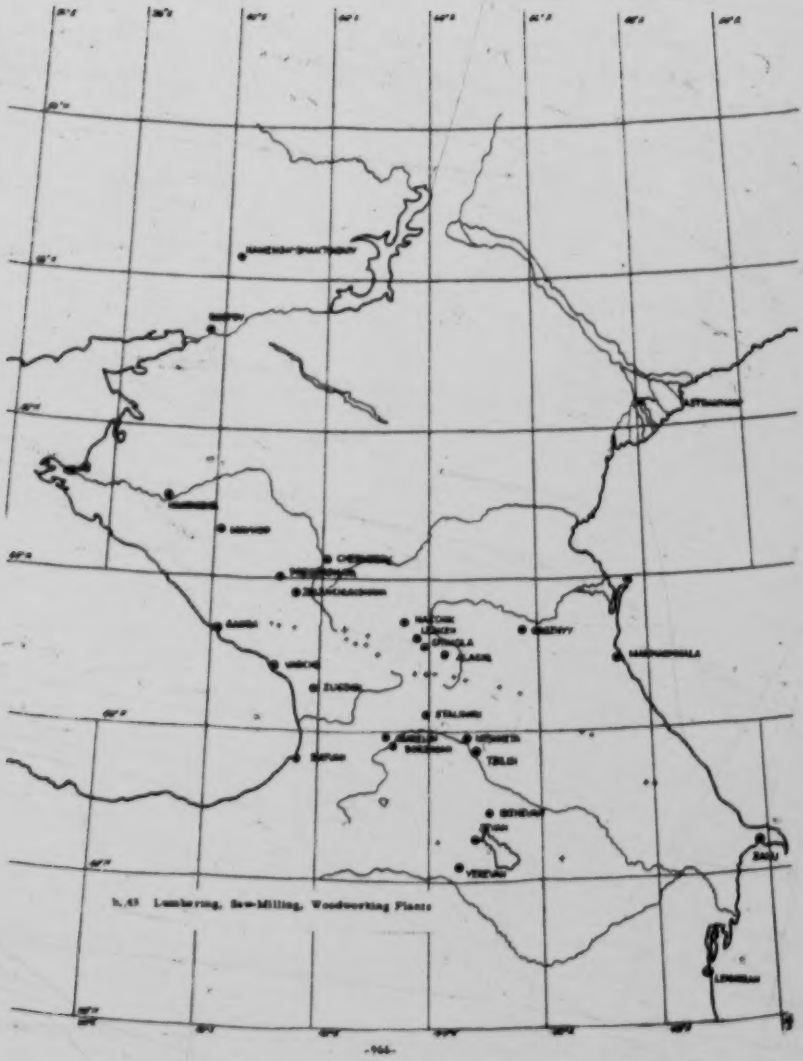

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